

lems in European clothes, with red fezes; they
 were of the
 ordinary Levantine type, noisy, emotional,
 rather decadent,
 quite hopeless as material on which to build,
 but also not
 really dangerous as foes, although given to
 loud talk in the
 cafes and to emotional street parades. These
 Levantines
 were profoundly affected by the success of the
 Young Turk
 Movement in Turkey, and were prattling about
 a constitu-
 tion and responsible government in language
 not materially
 different from that used by Mediterranean
 Christians when
 they are engaged either in a just and proper
 movement for
 reform or in a foolish revolutionary agitation.
 The real strength of the Nationalist
 movement in Egypt,
 however, lay not with these Levantines of the
 cafes, but
 with the mass of practically unchanged bigoted
 Moslems to
 whom the movement meant driving out the
 foreigner, plun-
 dering and slaying the local Christian, and a
 return to all
 the violence and corruption which festered
 under the old-
 style Moslem rule, whether Asiatic or African.
 The Ameri-
 can missionaries whom I met, and who I found
 had accom-
 plished a really extraordinary quantity of
 work, were a
 unit in feeling that the overthrow of the
 English rule would
 be an inconceivable disaster; and this
 although they were
 quite frank in criticising some features of
 English rule, and
 notably some actions of individual
 Englishmen in high
 places. The native Christians, the Copts, and
 also the
 Syrians and Greeks (although often themselves
 difficult to
 satisfy and fond of making absurd claims), took
 exactly the

same view of the essentials, and dreaded keenly the murderous outbreak of Moslem brutality which was certain to follow the restoration of native rule in Egypt; but they were cowed by the seeming lack of decision of the English authorities, and the increasing insolence and turbulence of the Moslems. Moreover I found traces, although not strong traces, of a feeling on their part that some of the English officials occasionally treated them with a galling contempt which made it hard for them always to appreciate as fully as it deserved the justice which they also received.

The British officials themselves were drifting, and were